



Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue ♦ San Francisco, CA 94102-3660
Telephone 415-865-4200 ♦ Fax 415-865-4205 ♦ TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

TO: Administrative Presiding Justices
Appellate Court Administrators
Trial Court Presiding Judges
Trial Court Executive Officers and Administrators

FROM: Hon. Ronald M. George, Chief Justice of California
William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the Courts

DATE: September 11, 2001, approximately 1:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT/ PURPOSE
OF MEMO:** Judicial Emergency Orders and Today's Events

In response to the national tragedies occurring today, we have received several inquiries from trial courts about the status of continuing operations. The Governor has issued a Memorandum closing all state buildings and facilities, other than those providing essential or critical functions. The Governor's Memorandum states that Agency Directors are to decide which facilities meet this definition.

We know that many of your employees and individuals served by your courts are shaken and are extremely concerned about today's events. We also understand that some courts have closed facilities because of local circumstances, such as the absence of adequate security in light of other pressing demands on law enforcement.

We expect that each of you will be making the decision whether to close particular courts based on the threat presented in your county by this national calamity. For those courts that decide to close some or all of their facilities, the Chief Justice later today will issue an Order permitting Administrative Presiding Justices and Presiding Judges to close their courts, and extending as a result of this public calamity the deadlines identified in Government Code section 68115(a)-(e) and (g)-(h). This Order will be issued consistent with the Governor's Memorandum and pursuant to Government Code section 68115 and the inherent authority of the Chief Justice and the Judicial Branch to preserve the safe operation of the courts. The order will apply, effective today, to trial courts that have not

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yet requested a specific order from the Chief Justice pursuant to section 68115, provided that a request for an order is received from the trial court by September 18, 2001. Kindly fax those requests to Michael Bergeisen, the AOC's General Counsel, at 415-865-7664.

Please note that because neither the President nor the Governor has proclaimed a state of emergency at this time, the periods for arraignments on felonies, and for detention hearings and jurisdictional hearings for minors charged with a felony, cannot be extended pursuant to Government Code sections 68115 (f), (i), and (j). We are currently reviewing this issue with the Governor's office and will inform you as soon as we have additional information.

We regret that emergency alerts in San Francisco have resulted in the evacuation of personnel from the offices of the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts. If you have urgent questions and you do not receive a response at the AOC offices, please contact Ron Overholt (cell # 415-307-6780) or Bill Vickrey (415-865-4660).

MB/dr

cc: Members of the Judicial Council
Michael Bergeisen, General Counsel